



## Signal Corps embraces transformation

By Denise Allen/*The Signal*

**FORT GORDON, Ga.** (TRADOC News Service, July 9, 2004) – The Signal Corps is doing its part in Army transformation.

The concept of lifelong learning, and the University of Information Technology have been in the works for a while, but the Signal Corps gained the attention of the entire Army last fall when Maj. Gen. Janet Hicks, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general, became the executive agent for the project of lifelong learning.

Because of that, Fort Gordon is developing a standard for all Army schools.

“Everyone has been working at this idea. All of the schools have dabbled at it some,” said Barbara Walton, chief of the University of Information Technology Division of the Directorate of Training.

Over the past few years, UIT has snowballed with a growing staff devoted to its success. The applications include video simulations which facilitate a concept called assignment-oriented training: Soldiers receive training based on their next assignment instead of receiving a lot of training at the beginning of their careers and leaving a gap of several years until they receive more training.

And there’s the distance-learning component, in which students can take the same courses they would at Fort Gordon without ever coming to the installation.

Many courses have been videotaped so long-distance learners receive the same information from Fort Gordon instructors.

Video simulations were tested as Signaleers headed to fight the war in Iraq and were faced with the Force XXI Battle Command, Brigade-and-Below.

“A number of users had never heard of it,” said Jake Pennington, director of the Lifelong Learning Center, who learned how to use the FBCB2 system through simulation.

The UIT Website is filled with other helpful information such as message boards and streaming video of events such as Hicks’ June promotion.

The Website has become increasingly popular. From last year’s Signal Symposium to June, the number of users doubled to more than 15,000.

Not only is the Army looking at what Fort Gordon has done, other branches of the military have expressed an interest in learning more.

“We fight Joint; we have to train Joint,” Pennington said.

Walton said the Marines want to get information on Fort Gordon’s system to enhance what they are doing.

Officials said they only see the possibilities of the system growing in the future.

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